

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I feel immense pleasure in recording my deep sense of gratitude to my research supervisor **Dr. S. Aruchamy** Former Professor and Head Department of Geography, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli for his guidance, continued forbearance, freedom and inspiration throughout the course of investigation. He introduced me the concept of land evaluation and inspired me to pursue research in physical geography.

I would like to thank **Dr. K. Kumaraswamy**, Professor and Head, Department of Geography, Bharathidasan University for allowing me to utilise the facilities in the Department and for encouragement during my research period.

I must offer my profoundest gratitude to Professor **Dr. A. Ganesh** Former Professor and Head, Department of Geography, Bharathidasan University for his untiring support and meticulous counsel during the period of investigation.

I am very much thankful to my fellow faculty members. **Mr. R. Jegankumar** and **Mr. K. Balasubramani** Assistant Professors Department of Geography, Bharathidasan University for their moral support and kind encouragement for helping me to finish my thesis work .

I express my sincere and heartfelt thankfulness to Professor and Head **Dr. R. Jaganathan**, **Dr. M. Sakthivel**, and **Dr. G. Bhaskaran**, Assistant Professors, Department of Geography, University of Madras, Chennai.

I express my sincere thankfulness to **Dr. V. Madha Suresh**, Professor, University of Madras, Chennai, and **Dr. V. Saravanabavan** Madurai Kamaraj University for their valuable suggestions as Doctoral Committee members.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to my Professors **Dr. C.R. Vilasani**, for sharing her wisdom and moral support even after their retirement.

I also place on record my sincere thanks to **Mr. Abdul Rahaman**, **Dr. S. Umamathi**, **Miss. Priyadharshani**, **Miss. V. Durga** and **M. Sathyaseelan** for their seamless support in the preparation of this thesis.

I am very much grateful to the University Authorities for giving permission to do my research.

I acknowledge my sincere thanks to UGC-SAP-DRS-II Programme of Department of Geography, Bharathidasan University; Department of Remote Sensing and GIS, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and State Surface and Ground Water Resources Data Centre, Chennai for providing necessary data and instruments to accomplish my research work.

I would never have been able to finish my dissertation without the moral support from **my family members**. I am very much obliged to **my father Mr. P. Palanisamy**, **my mother Mrs. N. Andal** and **My wife Mrs. M. Vyshnavi**, for their boundless support and bearing all the pain during the entire period of my research work.